

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to voice my concern regarding the possible loss of programming on XM Radio. For almost a year I, like thousands of Americans, have enjoyed and benefited from the service provided by XM Radio. The quality of programming and content is unparalleled. Before XM Radio, I was forced to listen to endless commercials and never-ending chatter from DJ's. Tired of it all, I decided to instal satellite radio in my new vehicle, choosing XM Radio for its variety of channels. I made this choice knowing that such outstanding service would come at a price, a price I am willing to pay for.

Last winter I was pleased to learn that XM Radio would begin offering traffic updates for select cities, including Houston, Texas. Having been a resident of Houston for a number of years, I have deal with traffic problems daily. The new Instant Traffic station provided by XM Radio saves me, as well as countless other XM subscribers, precious time. I no longer have to wait through numerous commercials, boring music, and idiotic DJ's for a traffic report. The traffic report provided on XM Radio is very thorough at gives me a clear picture of local traffic conditions 24 hours a day. In Houston, none of the FM radio stations provide traffic reports outside peak congestion time periods. This leaves motorists uninformed.

In addition, I often use the Instant Traffic stations while traveling to other cities for work. When I reach an unfamiliar city, I no longer have to search for a FM radio station to get a traffic report. Instead, I simply switch my XM Radio to that city's channel.

I ask that you reject any request by the NAB or another group to block XM Radio from offering the services currently available. I am specifically speaking about petition 04-160. No lobby group should be allowed to tell me or any other subscriber that we cannot receive Instant Traffic stations. Although the NAB may feel that the service provided by XM Radio undercuts their FM programming, they should not be allowed to proceed on their petition. They must realize that conventional FM radio is becoming obsolete. Americans are willing and able to pay for the programming they want, and that programming is XM Radio, including its valuable Instant Traffic channels.

I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Joel Atkins